

# USDA/Rural Development

Bismarck, North Dakota

## News Release

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### **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES FIRE ENGINE FUNDING FOR THE TOWN OF AMIDON**

**Amidon, June 10, 2003.** . . The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development State Director, Clare Carlson, today presented two symbolic checks to the rural community of Amidon.

A check for \$36,000 presented to the Amidon Fire Protection District is used toward the purchase of a used fire truck for a total cost of \$69,000. The additional funds were provided by Roosevelt Custer Regional Council, the city of Amidon, and the local fire district.

"Investing in rural public safety services helps maintain and enhance the quality of life in rural areas," said Carlson. The Bush Administration has directed federal entities to place priority on the needs of rural America. We are pleased to be a partner in this project."

Another check for \$54,450 was presented to the Amidon Fire Protection District to purchase a second fire truck for \$88,750. The balance of the purchase came from the State Energy Impact Fund. The vehicle will be equipped with a 400-500 gallon tank with a compressed air foam delivery system that will be used to help fight oil and gas fires. The grant funds are provided through the Community Facility Grant program administered through the Rural Housing Service.

Amidon is located in the Southwest Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone. The Southwest REAP is a regional collaboration of federal, state, and local representatives working to stem the out migration of people and jobs from the region.

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"USDA's Community Facilities program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of our declining populations in rural areas," continued Carlson. "With lesser population and tax basis than urban areas, rural areas rely on programs such as USDA's Community Facilities programs to maintain safe environments and to enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The Community Facilities programs are administered through the Rural Housing Service (RHS) and is part of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development mission area. These programs are designed to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, including schools, libraries, child care centers, hospitals, clinics, assisted living facilities, fire stations and rescue vehicles, police stations, community centers, public buildings, and transportation.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and Rural Utilities Service.

In Fiscal Year 2002, USDA Rural Development provided **over \$76 million** in loan and grant financing in North Dakota.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs, check out our web site at: [WWW.rurdev.usda.gov](http://WWW.rurdev.usda.gov), or you may contact Clare Carlson, State Director, or Donald Warren Rural Housing Service Program Director at 1-800-582-7584.

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